



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

The Daymarker

October, 1984, Vol. I, Issue 5

Boat U.S. Cooperative Group # 80979

COMING EVENTS

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| 20 & 21 Oct. | - Quantico Yacht Club Frostbite Regatta |
| 25 Oct. | - General Membership Meeting (Black Forest Inn) |
| 27 Oct. | - NEABSCO Sailing Club Macho-Machette Regatta |
| 8 Dec. | - Christmas Dinner Party (Black Forest Inn) |
| XX Jan. 1985 | - General Membership Meeting (Special Program) |
| XX March | - Annual General Membership Meeting (Election of officers) |

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	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'S COMMENTS

Fall Meeting. The Fall general membership meeting will be held 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Thursday, 25 October, at the Black Forest Inn, Old Davis Ford Road, Woodbridge. We have a private room with cash bar; dinner is available. Directions from Prince William Marina are:

Leave marina and turn right on route #1.
Turn right at first light onto Gordon Boulevard (123).
Turn left at the 3rd light on to Davis Ford Road.
Proceed up the hill and through Lake Ridge (Davis Ford turns into Old Bridge through Lake Ridge).
Go to the end of Old Bridge and turn right on Davis Ford.
Proceed about 3/4 of a mile and follow sign on left to BLACK FOREST INN (4505 Old Davis Ford Road - Tel: 590-4300).

Christmas Party. Our first Christmas party will be held the evening of Saturday, 8 December at the Black Forest Inn, Woodbridge. The evening will feature a cocktail hour followed by a fabulous sit-down dinner. Details will be forthcoming by a separate flyer to be mailed in early November. Please mark your calendar now!

Safety at the Fuel Dock. When at any fuel dock be certain all cigarettes are extinguished. Prior to taking on fuel be sure the cabin windows (ports) and doors (hatches) are closed. And, of course, try hard not to overfill the tank(s). After loading fuel, open the windows (ports) and doors (hatches) and turn on the bilge blower and let the blower run at least five (5) minutes to rid the bilge area of any fumes. One of the best gas-fume sensors is the nose — use it! Don't be in a hurry just because there may happen to be a line of boats waiting to get to the fuel dock. Should there be an explosion because of not properly ventilating the boat, they won't need their tanks full anyway.

Concerning tugs and barges. Those of us who keep our boats on the Occoquan are obviously aware of the two tugs which service the Virginia Concrete plant. Recently two of our club members requested permission to board the Capt. Tom which was tied up to shore undergoing repairs. They were given a complete tour of the tug by the Captain, who is very proud of his boat. By the time they got to the wheel house (the visibility from way up there was incredible), not only was the Captain's pride showing, but also his frustration at the actions of some of the smaller boats while underway. As he phrased it, "I just wish they would follow the rules of the road."

We should constantly remind ourselves and our fellow boaters that the tugs have the right of way, particularly in a narrow channel. They are restricted in their ability to maneuver (even if they do have excellent visibility) -- with or without barges attached. They cannot change direction nor alter speed quickly, and cannot get out of our way. Please defer to these hard-working seamen who are simply trying to make a living and are not out for an afternoon cruise.

To really do it properly and show them what OYC is all about, call the tug on Channel 16 (or the Bridge-to-Bridge Channel, 13) when you are in his path and tell him that you will be moving out of his way or that you will be overtaking or whatever on the port or starboard side. Your leadership will be spontaneous and catch on quickly. These simple courtesies will help make the Occoquan and Potomac safer and more enjoyable for us all.

Open Regatta and Predicted Log Results.

Saturday, September 15, saw our first day of competition, which was an overwhelming success! Blustery North winds of 15 to 25 knots and river seas of 1 to 3 feet made it a challenge for sail and power enthusiasts alike. Here is who took home the silver; () = club affiliation:

Predicted Log

- 1st - Bob Meyers in "Happy Days III"
- 2nd - Nick Katsarelis in "Tango 4 (OYC)"
- 3rd - John & Marilyn Piper in "Sara J" (OYC)

Sailing Class "A"

- 1st - Mike & Carol Herron in "Tangle" (NSC)
- 2nd - Dave Rutherford in "SHIBUI" (NSC)
- 3rd - Dan Boone in "Scarlet" (NSC)

Sailing Class "B"

- 1st - Doug Bourden in "Windwatch" (NSC)
- 2nd - Mike Laversa in "Nemesis" (NSC)
- 3rd - Rick Mattson & Kevin Hopkins in "Madness" (NSC)

"NO WAKE" a reality. Both Fairfax and Prince William Counties, along with the Virginia Department of Game and Fisheries, have formally declared the Occoquan River a 'no wake' zone from marker 12 to the headwaters above the Town of Occoquan. As a public service, OYC members will install 14 "No Wake" signs along the river. The signs are being provided by FAIRFAX County, piles by CAPT. JOHN BEACH, and the pile driver by Prince William Marina. If you would like to assist in this public service project, which is planned for late October or early November, please contact Commodore Bill Shaw at 491-8227 any evening.

Boating Safety Courses. The following boating safety courses are currently being offered in the Prince William-Fairfax County area. OYC urges you to attend one of these outstanding courses:

- . USCG Boating Skills and Seamanship, Woodbridge Sr. High School, started 1 October. Call 979-5255 for further information.
- . USPS Piloting and Seamanship, Vienna; started 12 September. Call 670-6236 for further information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. Attached you will find a list of new members and corrections to your club roster. Please detach from the newsletter and place with your roster. To all our new members, Welcome Aboard!

OYC Notes:

Jim Dagenhart ("Sugar Bull") taking orders for T-shirts with "Occoquan Yacht Club" monograms at \$20.00 each.

OYC membership is open to all and not restricted to only Prince William Marina.

When members receive the OYC membership list, please check for errors in listing and if incorrect, contact Aaron Martin, 491-1287.

Request hints, items of interest, ideas, etc. for the OYC newsletter, Daymarker, should be given to Lucy Haynes.

Note that Adele Baker is OYC Historian and keeping scrap book and photo album. If you have good photos of club activities and would like to give Adele copies to be placed in album, it would be appreciated. Ann Burrows is heading Public Affairs and notices of activities should be submitted to her for news releases to the media.

Reminder to file float plan with friend or neighbor as safety precaution when going out and especially if planning to stay out overnight.

Take advantage of Coast Guard Auxiliary courtesy inspection of your boat.

Know CG emergency numbers, how to contact by radio, distress signals, etc.

Winter lay-up Safety. If you are leaving your boat in the water this winter, here are some early safety tips:

- . DO NOT use an electric spaceheater on board a gasoline powered boat. Electric arcs in the thermostat can ignite gas fumes and reduce your and neighboring craft to liquid assets (also may tip over and start a fire).

- . WINTERIZE your engine (cooling system), head, and freshwater system no later than Thanksgiving. Potable fresh water antifreeze is available for your freshwater system.
- . DOUBLE or triple all dock lines. Be sure to use spring-lines.
- . REMOVE all topside canvas and running rigging. Stow it below.
- . DRAIN all hoses (or fill with antifreeze) leading from thru-hull valves and fittings. Ensure all valves or seacocks are securely closed.

For more information and tips, consult the boating section of your local library or talk to some of us who wintered on the Occoquan last year. Please call Bill Shaw if you would like to discuss winter preparation further.

Fall Weather. Fall weather is characterized by cool days and cooler nights with a day or two of sunshine followed by a day or two of clouds and rain associated with each cold front passage. Cold fronts will be followed with 20-25 knots of NW winds for 18-24 hours after passage. This can whip the Potomac up to 2 to 3 feet on the Maryland side. Be cautious and always check the National Weather Service forecast before sailing (VHF WX1 or phone 899-3210 for a recorded message).

POTPOURRI

by Gene Fichter

It sure has been a super boating season. Oh yes, we have had some weekends with rain, but if you consider the friendships gained and the camaraderie on the docks, including the 4th of July Bash and the September Oyster Roast with the power and sail races, it could go down as a memorable one.

In conversation with Dick Kraus (our landlord) plans are underway to make the first priority showers, locker and better water.

Who are the kids who have a black lamb on 11B dock who really think their pet is a dog?

Did you know that Deane and Trixie have a real live parrot on their vessel? Shades of ancient nautical captains.

Who was our member that "got lost" in the Occoquan and called for help? (TF)

Members of the club, Steve, Dan, Ken, Mike, Gene, Dale, Dean and others went to the rescue of Francis and Woody when they were 4 hours overdue from Aquia Creek and broke down south of the powerlines.

It was such a beautiful day for our "Dockside Swap & Shop" that everyone went out on their boats. Perhaps we could reschedule it for another time, although I sold several items.

How about Dick and Barbara Kelly catching that 10 lbs catfish -- would have been a fish fry for the whole club.

Everyone (over 100) seemed to have a good time at the Oyster Roast. The oysters and crabs were donated by our landlord Dick Lynn.

By the way, both Dick Lynn and Dick Kraus are always open to suggestions or how to improve the marina. They would also like to hear any complaints first hand! So let them know! If you throw a brick, also throw a bouquet.

It's been reported that our avid sailors Wayne & Nancy Cates just love staying aboard next to the tug. They claim the throb of the diesel engines are music to their ears.

Scuttlebut has it that most everyone seems to be looking for a "larger boat." If this keeps up, Dick will have to built bigger piers. A couple of people are talking about 50-footers and bigger. My gosh, we'll have a fleet of warships!

One of the nicest times of the day at our marina is early in the morning watching the mist burn away when the sun comes up. If you haven't experienced this "oceanic" feeling why not try it?

The pump-out station should be ready shortly. There are very few marinas that provide this service. It's located between the pumps by the launching ramps.

Pet owners are to be congratulated for carrying their "pooper scooper" and keeping pooch off the grassy areas.

That picnic table is great! We sat 12 at it during the Oyster Roast. Also great for eating crabs there.

Noticed our landlord picking up trash among the rocks. I am sure he'd appreciate your keeping the dock as ship-shape as your boat!

Many passers-by seemed to have gotten the message and the wakes are minimal. Still, there are some who violate the rule, but just keep up the good work of letting them know and we'll conquer the problem.

One of our members (Bob) has been catching larger bass by the lock construction area. He takes them home and stakes his friends. He'll love me reporting this because now everyone will be at his favorite spot.