



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

# The Daymarker

February, 1985, Vol. II, Issue 1

## Commodore's Comments

As we approach the 1985 season our membership is approaching 140 including 60 families, 1 associate and 3 juniors. Elections will be held Saturday March 9th (details later in this letter) and our new year begins April 1. If you haven't renewed, please do so soon to keep our operating funds up. Membership applications appeared in your last DAYMARKER, if you need another please contact any club officer.

This year the club will purchase burgees, blazer patches, shirts, etc., in quantity and pass the savings on directly to you. We should be stocked for resale of these items by the Change of Command Banquet planned for April 12th, more details should appear in the March DAYMARKER.

The current executive board has proposed an extensive schedule of events expanding on our experience last year. Although we would like to publish the schedule in this issue we feel it is only fair to the incoming board to review and approve it. Accordingly the detailed 1985 schedule will be published in the March DAYMARKER immediately following our elections.

Again, thank you for your support in 1984 and smooth seas and following winds to all in 1985.

## Change of Command Banquet

OYC will hold its first annual Change of Command Banquet on Friday, April 12th 1985, at the Ft. Belvoir Officers' Club. We will have a cocktail hour from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner. More details will be included in a flyer to be mailed in March. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for a super evening!



## Historic Occoquan, Va.

January 31, 1985

Mr. Gene Fichter  
Occoquan Yacht Club  
Prince William Marina  
207 Mill Street  
Occoquan, Va. 22125

Dear Mr. Fichter:

On behalf of the Occoquan Merchants' Association and Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, we want to thank you for your escort up the river in December.

Santa arrives in Occoquan with a flair and a splash unknown in any other local area. Your members' escort added a new dimension of style to this happy day.

Please let your members know how pleased and grateful we are for the support.

Cordially yours,

La Verne Carson  
President  
Occoquan Merchants' Association

LVC/sr

Pot-Pourri by Gene Fichter

- o General Westmoreland is really not a slip holder here at the Marina--his look alike is Buz Lasch on "D" dock.
- o It appears that "A" dock is almost ready for some people to move from "B" dock. The next project is to commence finishing "E" dock.
- o Our landlords, Dick and Dick, are always ready to listen to any suggestions you may have to improve "our" marina. They're easy to talk to and appreciate your input.
- o It is suggested you remove all expensive items like depth-finders, radios, etc., from your vessel while inactive since we've had some thefts.
- o I would like to ask all sailboaters to offer to take a power boater with them for a short while so the powerboaters can get a different perspective of what the sailboater has to contend with in maneuvering his craft through wakes while attempting to adjust his rigging. I believe this will indeed be an eye-opener for many.
- o It may be that our marina will have a name change, especially when guests go to the other marina and get lost. If you have any suggestions for a name, please let our landlord's know of your ideas.
- o It is true that two of our dockmates intend to purchase a large sailboat and have a wood-burning fireplace aboard?
- o Bob Bagbey of Prince William Marina claims he has a waiting list for slips and advises present slip holders to pay their fees by 1 March or he'll rent the slip to someone else.
- o If you have any concerns about Safety, please let our new volunteers on the committee know of them. The Pipers on "B" dock have undertaken this important and necessary charge.
- o Are you aware of one of our members winning trophies for her roller skating competitions? (Captain A).
- o If you have not seen the specifications for the restaurant complex, they're available for viewing in the Dockmaster's trailer. I think you'll like what you see.
- o Do you realize there are now 12 marinas or launching facilities on the Occoquan River?
- o Who is the Flag Officer that brags he has the "Most Robust Horn?" (B.S.!!)
- o With the NW winds and very low tides many vessels are hanging on their lines. It's a good idea to come down to the marina and check them. Also check for water in the vessel as well and the batteris that operate bidge pumps.

- o Remember--Price William Marina is matching the price of Boat U.S. on big - ticket items such as radios, etc. When you need them for repairs, they're here. Also, their gift shop is just chock full of nautical items of a quality nature.
- o Reminder---just show your membership card and receive 10% off any purchase at Jerry's Rings 'N Things in downtown Occoquan.
- o Thanks to the Watkins Man Shop at 303 Commerce Street, Occoquan who donated a magnificent centerpiece for a table decoration at the club's Christmas party. By the way, if you frequent particular shops in Lake Ridge, Woodbridge, or Occoquan, why not ask the proprietor if they would afford a discount to club members? This could help us all, as well as foster business for the merchant.
- o You don't have to keep a boat at the Prince William Marina to be a member of our club. As a matter of fact you don't even have to have a boat at all in order to be an associate member. So please enlist your enthusiastic boating friends. The more the merrier.
- o Much thanks goes to Ken Gemsheim, Mike Broker, and Dick Lynn for the use of their boats, time, and fuel for transporting Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause to the town of Occoquan where they were greeted by hundreds of children and the local fire department's hook and ladder. Thanks also is in order for the many club members who crewed for the captains. The weather was superb and all seemed to enjoy the project.
- o Fifty-seven people attended our Christmas Party at the Black Forest Inn. Besides the dancing, conversation, and raffling of table centerpieces, many seemed to have an enjoyable time opening, sharing, and exchanging their gifts. A great deal of creativity was apparent in evidence when the presents were shown to each others.

The Executive Rear Commodore's Corner by Aaron Martin

If you have ever observed another vessel's lights near you as you voyaged home after dusk, I'll bet you tried to remember the rules for right away. I recently came upon an old sea chanty that will help you remember. It goes:

Meeting vessels do not dread.  
 When you see three lights ahead  
 Starboard wheel and show your red.  
 Green to green or red to red  
 Perfect safety, go ahead.  
 If to starboard red appears,  
 Tis your duty to stay clear;  
 Act as judgment says is proper,  
 Port or starboard, back or stop her.  
 But when upon your port is seen  
 A vessels starboard light of green,  
 There's not so much for you to do  
 For green to port keeps clear of you.

By-Laws

Now that the OYC is 1 year old, it has become evident that several changes need to be made to the club by-laws. The following is a summary of the changes recommended by the executive board and are to be voted upon by the general membership at the March 9th meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OYC BY-LAWS

1. Article III (8)

✓ (a) "The fiscal year, and membership year, of this organization shall be from April 1st to March 31st of the calendar year following . . ."

The underlined part shall be changed to: "from November 1st to October 31st"

✓ (b) That portion "(1984 membership cards may be issued at any time)" shall be deleted.

2. Article II (9)

"All memberships shall automatically expire on March 31st of the membership year."

✓ The underlined part shall be changed to: "on October 31st"

3. Article IV (6)

"The Annual Membership Meeting shall be held in the first week of March each year at a place . . ."

✓ The underlined part shall be changed to: "October"

4. Article IV (7)(b)

"A proxy shall be signed by the person . . ."

✓ The underlined part shall be changed to: "be dated and signed" *100-1276*

5. Article IV (7)(d)

(a) "Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting in March of each year, to take office on 1 April and serve . . ."

The underlined part shall be changed to: "in October of each year, to take office on 1 November"

(b) "The Executive Board may appoint a nominating committee."

✓ The underlined part shall be changed to: "shall"

(c) "The nominating committee must recommend . . ."

✓ The underlined part shall be changed to: "should"

(d) "Such nominations or petitions must be presented to the Secretary no later than the first Wednesday in September to be valid."

✓ The underlined part shall be changed to: "September 15th"

*100-1276 10  
HELD 1st week*

Nominations for OYC Officers for 1985 Announced

The nominating committee delivered its report to the OYC executive board on February 10th as requested by the board. The nominations were as follows:

Commodore: Bill Shaw  
Aaron Martin

Vice Commodore: Gene Fichter  
Mike Broker - LALINDA  
Ken Gemshine

Executive Rear Commodore: John Welsh

Secretary: Marilyn Piper

Treasurer: Dale Jacobs

Bill - email  
APPENDED AND  
CALL FOR  
AT LEAST  
OFFICE

All persons nominated are regular OYC members and have expressed their interest in serving in the indicated offices.

Assignment of Proxy

If you are unable to attend the March 9th Membership meeting, during which the 1985 club officers will be elected, you may choose to assign your voting privilege to another club member. Fill out the attached proxy and send it to the individual to whom you assign your proxy. Remember that the assignment of a proxy to an individual assigns the right of choosing who they will vote for in the election. Those receiving proxies will deliver them to the club secretary for recording. Any proxy not recorded by the secretary prior to elections will be null and void.

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ASSIGNMENT OF PROXY

To: Nedra Connor, Secretary, OYC

Since I will be unable to be present for the 1985 election of officers for the Occoquan Yacht Club, I do hereby assign my proxy to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

### General Membership Meeting and St. Patty's Party

Mark your calendar for the general membership meeting, election of officers, and St. Patty's party on March 9th at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Ridgewood Community Center, 12400 Oakwood Drive, in Lake Ridge (from the marina go Route 1 to Route 123 towards Occoquan, turn left at Davis Ford and follow it into Lake Ridge, at shopping center curve onto Old Bridge Road. The center is at the corner of Old Bridge and Oakwood at the traffic light on Old Bridge) There is a pay phone for purposes of babysitters' emergency 494-9331 (note: let it ring several times; it is on the lower level).

The first hour of the evening will be our general meeting and elections, after that is -- PARTY TIME!!!! Each member should bring a cold hor d'oeuvre or snack, BYOB and setups. The club will provide glasses and ice for your drinks.

The club has gone to great expense to acquire the services of a well-known East Coast DJ. Be prepared to strut your finest, as there will be a dance off with a prize going to the best couple. If you have tapes of favorites, I'm sure the DJ will be glad to play them.

The word is out that the leprechauns will be watching for anyone not wearing green that night, so be prepared.

### American Sail Training Association Rendezvous/Races

The American Sail Training Association will sponsor a regional Sail Training Race on the lower Potomac and southern Chesapeake this summer. The event will begin with a rendezvous in Alexandria, Virginia, for the city's Red Cross Waterfront Festival June 14-16. The current plans call for a Parade of Sail departure from Alexandria on Sunday afternoon, June 16th (to get south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge during reduced traffic hours). Following a night in Gunston Cove, just south of Ft. Belvoir, the fleet will motorsail in company down the Potomac. Monday night will be spent at Dahlgren, Virginia, hopefully with access to the naval facilities ashore. On Tuesday morning the fleet will start a day-long race down the lower Potomac and up the St. Mary's River to St. Mary's College. After spending Tuesday night at St. Mary's, with access to college facilities ashore, the fleet will start its second race on Wednesday morning. From a line in the St. Mary's River, the course will go down the river into the Potomac, round Point Lookout, north up the Chesapeake to a buoy off Herring Bay, then south again, passing through Hooper Island Channel and east of Bloodsworth, Smith and Tangier Islands. After rounding a mark in the York River Entrance Channel, the fleet will head for Thimble Shoals and cross a finish line in the vicinity of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel sometime on Friday, June 21st. The fleet will then congregate at Waterside for the weekend of June 22-23.

District Department of Recreation Invites OYC To Participate In "DANMARK" Visit and Potomac Riverfest '85.

The District Department of Recreation is inviting area boaters to participate in the official greeting of the Danish School Ship "DANMARK", and to join in the festivities of POTOMAC RIVERFEST '85.

The DANMARK will visit Washington from April 19 to 25 in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of its service to the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II.

The fully rigged 253-foot long DANMARK will sail up the Potomac accompanied by several smaller sail ships. Near Fort Washington on the Potomac, the sail vessel will be joined by a welcoming regatta of private and public boats. After passing under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, the ship will be met by the Fireboat JOHN GLENN and other official craft that will escort the DANMARK to its pier in the Washington Channel. The OYC and its members are invited to participate in the welcome with their sail and power boats.

On June 8 and 9, the District of Columbia will again host the second annual POTOMAC RIVERFEST to celebrate the rebirth of the Potomac as a vital recreational resource in the region. Festivities will include water events, ethnic food, live entertainment and a spectacular fireworks display on Sunday night. Planning is well underway for the first annual MAYOR'S CUP SAILBOARD REGATTA.

The regatta will be established as an annual event, open to any sailboarder and will include Olympic Course and Long Distance races. There will also be individual sailboard exhibitions and safety courses for all.

Make plans to attend this event and join in the fun. Mooring and water taxi services will be available.

Fuel Tax Refund

Boaters may obtain a refund for motor vehicle fuel taxes paid on fuel used in their boats. To obtain your refund you must submit a "GSA Form 216" which is available from the DMV or your marina (if they sell fuel). NOTE: You will need your receipts for fuel to back-up your refund claim.

Maryland Fishing Defined

New this year is the requirement to hold a Maryland license to fish in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. The effect on Potomac boaters who venture into Maryland waters is that his license is required if you intend to fish in any Maryland Creek such as Mattawoman, Piscatoway, Pomonkey, or Swan. The license is not required for fishing in the open Potomac. To obtain an application, call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 301/269-3211. From Washington metro call 261-1402, ask for extension 3211.



# Marine VHF Radio Operations And the FCC, Part I

The marine VHF radio service provides the medium for safety, navigation, and personal communications to all vessels afloat. Most recreational boaters use the marine radio properly; a small percentage deliberately abuse it, and another small percentage, through ignorance, use poor operating procedures or are cited for an equipment malfunction or rules violation.

The Federal Communications Commission is charged with monitoring the marine airwaves and enforcing the Communications Act.

Recently, I had the opportunity to discuss the state of the marine VHF radio service with Arian Van Doorn, the Deputy Chief of the FCC Field Operations Bureau, in the company of Don Bogert, Baltimore's senior FCC engineer, and FCC marine inspector Dwight Weller.

They cite poor operating practices, bad language and improper frequency (channel) use, as the main areas of concern with recreational boaters.

Poor operating practices create confusion, show a lack of consideration for other boaters, and interfere with necessary communications. Along with bad language and technical problems, they may result in receipt of a written violation notice, revocation of license, fines or imprisonment.

Continued, deliberate or accidental abuse of the radio service encourages and justifies further government involvement (remember the MSD), which could lead to license tests, fees, and so on.

It is in the best interest of recreational boaters to know the rules and use good operating procedures.

Here is a sampling of FCC cases involving the improper use of marine VHF radio:

- An FCC mobile direction-finding unit has pinpointed a sailboat transiting the C&D Canal that is suspected of being the source of a steady, unmodulated transmitter signal that has rendered Channel 16 useless in this area all morning. The FCC agent hails the boat from a bridge. Once aboard, he finds the unsecured microphone wedged between the radio and the bulkhead, the transmit button fully depressed.

- A state policeman near Elkton is receiving interference on his police radio from a boat operating illegally on an international VHF frequency.

- Two fishermen are involved in a heated discussion on Channel 68 near Tangier Island. One accuses the other of cutting his lines. Their language gets nasty, profane.

Why do we need rules and good operating procedures? Listen to the chaos on the CB channels. Talk to those who have been rescued or perhaps owe their lives to a radio-directed rescue. Or, talk to those who have lost their privilege to operate a radio. You will then appreciate the value of discipline on a radio service whose primary function is safety of life and limb.

Let's review the current operating rules and procedures to bring you up to date. Next month we will sharpen your operating skills, which will hopefully keep the FCC from your boarding ladder next spring.

**Changes in the Rules.** You are no longer required to have a copy of the rules and regulations on board, but you must be familiar with Parts 81 and 83, dealing with procedures.

You no longer need to keep a radio log of each and every radio transmission, but you must record emergency transmissions, and keep a record of radio repair work done by a licensed technician.

You are required to have a station license and an operator's license, both of which are free upon request. Anyone on board can talk on the radio as long as a licensed operator is present. You must be at least 14-years-old to get an operator's license, and it is valid for life.

The station license is good for five years and must then be renewed. You will receive instructions on how to operate on a temporary permit when you buy your marine radio.

The station license can not remain with the boat when the boat is sold, or remain with the boat owner when he buys a new boat. The radio call sign can remain with the boat in an ownership change only if the boat is documented. In all cases of transfer of ownership, a new station license must be obtained.

The same licensing and operating rules and restrictions apply to VHF hand-held transceivers. You can use them on board the boat and its dinghy, a sailboard, inflatable and so

*Continued on next page*

by Ed Antal  
**MARINE ELECTRONICS**

Photo by author



on, but you may not operate them once you step on the dock or on shore.

Your station license allows you to operate VHF and SSB marine radios as well as an emergency position indicator radio beacon (EPIRB) and RADAR transmitter.

You may not transmit false distress or emergency messages; obscene, indecent or profane words or meaning; general calls (CQ), that is calls not addressed to a particular station, except in an emergency or when you are requesting a radio check; when your boat is on shore, including a boat on a trailer; or your callsign in a foreign language.

**The Penalties.** If the FCC feels that you have violated the Communications Act or any of the rules found in Parts 81 or 83, they will send you a written notice of the apparent violation.

If the violation notice covers a technical radio standard, that is if your radio is off frequency or has a similar problem caused by wear and tear, you must stop using the radio until you have had the technical problem fixed. You may have to have tests conducted and report the results of those tests to the FCC. Tests must be signed by the commercial operator who conducted them.

If the FCC finds that you have willfully or repeatedly violated the Communications Act or the operating rules, your license may be revoked and you may be fined or sent to prison.

The FCC can also prosecute violators through the U.S. Attorney as a criminal case. Section 502 of the Communications Act applies, and fines up to \$500 a day for each offense may be applied.

**Information Please.** If you have questions about the operation of your marine radio, or would like a copy of the FCC booklet titled "How to Use Your VHF Marine Radio," call or write the Baltimore Bureau of the FCC, 1017 Federal Building, Baltimore, MD 21201 (301) 962-2728. Their booklet fulfills the requirement for knowing the current rules.

If you want more detailed information, you can buy a copy of the 97-page "Marine Radiotelephone Users Handbook" prepared by the Radio Technical Commission for Marine Services (\$7.95), P.O. Box 19087, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Operate your marine VHF radio according to the FCC rules and encourage others to do so by your example. Don't jump on the channel and correct others, that just complicates things; leave the job of policing to the FCC. They are out there listening for those who would degrade the radio service that your life may someday depend upon.

Next month we'll review the proper procedure for using the marine radio. □

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### Area Boating Safety Courses

The Coast Guard Auxiliary will conduct the following boating safety courses in our area:

Basic Seamanship, Woodbridge High School  
Starting February 11, 1985

Basic Seamanship, Hayfield High School (Alexandria)  
Starting March 4, 1985

Basic Sailing and Seamanship, Woodbridge High School  
April (exact date to be determined)

For more information or to sign-up, please contact Don VanCampenhout (494-7966) or Jim Lewis (494-8449)

## Galley Notes by Lynn Martin

The word "galley" covers a multitude of not-quite kitchens. Campers have galleys; motor homes have galleys; small craft, large craft and aircraft have galleys. Because our galley's are in motion so much of the time, the first thing a galley chef learns is to keep everything battened down while the underway. It usually takes two or three shattered peanut butter jars or catsup bottles before this concept really sinks in, so don't feel bad if you still hear an occasional crash below deck. Knowing how to stow equipment and supplies satisfactorily is an acquired skill; it comes with time and a knowlege of your particular galley. But through this column we can share our knowledge and experiences.

"GALLEY NOTES," is a new column and will appear in each newsletter. If you have a favorite recipe or a helpful hint for the seagoing chef, write it down and send it to Lynn Martin. It will then appear in the newsletter with your name as contributor.

### Cooking Utensels

The following basic rules for selection of utensils are really no more than suggestions that have been passed down from one sailor to another.

1. BUY SMALL. Long-handled, broad-bladed spatulas work well over a barbecue grill, but they just get in the way in a galley.
2. SELECT IMPLEMENTS THAT CAN DO MORE THAN ONE CHORE. Choose a knife that will pare potatoes, cut bread, and fillet fish, for example. Don't forget to count table service. A dinner fork can do an adequate job on things you'd assign to a mixer, blender, whisk, rotary beater, or potato masher at home. So you can leave all those things behind. Use a teaspoon to measure teaspoonsful; know how the tablespoon measurement relates to the size of your own tableware, so you won't need a set of measuring spoons in the galley. A heavy plastic drinking glass makes a good rolling pin.
3. BUY WITH THE WEATHER IN MIND. Painted handles crack in hot sunlight; cadmium-plated steel rusts in salt air; thin wood splits. Sometimes if you pay a little more at the start, you have implements that last for years, and you are spared replacement costs.
4. AVOID CLUTTER. Buy less than you need, rather than more. When about to buy a utensil, don't ask yourself: "Can I use that thing?" Instead, ask "Can I do without it?" If you try getting along without a gadget and do find that you need it badly on your first trip out, you can always go back and get it before the second trip.

From Ann Shelton, a friend of Gene Ficters, we have this recipe for CROUTONS FOR SNACKS, SALADS, SOUPS, OR HORS D'OEUVRES

- 2 Boxes (16 oz each) Oyster Crackers
- 1 Pkg Hidden Ranch Dressing
- 1 Bottle Orville Redenbacher Buttery Flavor Popcorn Oil

*Why not use  
what you can  
buy in?*

Mix dressing with oyster crackers. Pour popcorn oil over all. Stir well. Continue to stir occasionally for several hours. /

Store in an air tight container; keeps well.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

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NAME/ADDRESS	BOAT DESCRIPTION			
BOAT NAME	LOA	MFGR	COLOR	CALL SIGN

=====

(Family and Individual)

Borden, Doug & Joan  
6017 Marilyn Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
Phone No.: 971-5467  
Boat Name: Windwatch

25 Catalina Sand

Goad, John E.  
6306 Beryl Road  
Alexandria, VA 22312  
Phone No.: 354-6378  
Boat Name: Pair-A-Dice

20 Galaxy Tan/Blue WRK 5093

Ewan, Larry  
4479 Paddock Lane  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
Phone No.: 804-467-6805  
Boat Name: Zephyr

31 Hunter White

Schroeder, Bernie & Carol  
9083 Brook Ford Road  
Burke, VA 22015  
Phone No.: 569-0922  
Boat Name: Carolene

25 Trojan White

(Associate)

Mackesy, Tom & Maureen  
P. O. Box 89  
Occoquan, VA 22125  
Phone No.: 494-3724  
Boat Name:

4 (Raft) Blue

(Junior)

Gemsheim, Adam  
828 Monroe Street  
Herndon, VA 22070  
Phone No.: 435-9125  
Boat Name: Gemini

37 Marine Trader White

CORRECTIONS TO OYC MEMBERSHIP LIST

Jacobs, Dale & Rita  
(new boat)  
Boat Name: Sunshine

28 Carver White

O'Rourke, Michael J.  
7004 Ridge Dr.  
Alexandria, VA 22306  
Phone No.: 768-2119

(new address & phone)

CORRECTIONS TO OYC MEMBERSHIP LIST

Worcester, Steve & Mary Jo    27    Sea Ray    White/Blue  
(new boat)  
Boat name:    Joie de Vivre

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Please add the above new members and corrections to your OYC Membership list and keep it current for future reference.

Please check the information on the Membership list and if there are changes, please let us know.

Thanks,

Nedra Connor  
Secretary

February 12, 1985

REMINDER - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1985

IF YOU HAVE OBTAINED CALL LETTERS FOR YOUR BOAT AND THEY HAVE NOT BEEN LISTED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THEM TO LIST ON THE NEXT NEW MEMBERSHIP LIST.